



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SEVENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2018 AT 1:30 P.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Sessional Report of the Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Vice-President)
 - (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to the Eight Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Examination of the Perceived Inequality Faced by Single Fathers in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Custody Matters, Policies and Access to Programmes and Services.
(By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
 - (i) The Fourteenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheets and other Financial Statements of the National Commission for Self Help Limited (NCSHL) for the financial years 2008 to 2015.
(By Senator Wade Mark)
 - (ii) The Fifteenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheets and other Financial Statements of the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) for the financial years 2008 to 2014.
(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iii) The Eleventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including the THA), Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry into the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Regulated Industries Commission (RIC).

(By Senator the Hon. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 13 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

During the period September 2015 to September 2018 how many persons have been admitted into the State Witness Protection Programme?

Question No. 14 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

How many police officers are currently on suspension pending the outcome of the following:

- (i) Criminal Investigations; and
- (ii) Departmental/ Internal disciplinary investigations?

Question No. 15 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

How many murder accused at the State Prison are currently awaiting trial having been committed to so stand?

Question No. 29 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What is the total cost of each of the consultancy reports tendered by Solomon and Associates and Mc Kinsey to the Government?

Question No. 30 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the Minister's stated commitment to relocate Los Iros farmers following the earthquake on August 21, 2018, can the Minister indicate how soon will this relocation take place and to what part(s) of Trinidad?

Question No. 31 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given reports that the University of the West Indies, Debe Campus will not be completed in time for the start of the 2018/2019 academic year, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. how many students have been affected by this revised timeline;
- ii. what measures have been put in place to mitigate the impact on the students who were to have commenced classes at that Campus in September 2018; and
- iii. when will the facility be completed?

Question No. 56 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Given the Minister's public statement that Petrotrin's Pointe-a-Pierre facilities will be used for bunkering of fuel, can the Minister indicate:

- i. how many days/weeks of supply of fuel will be stored in the designated bunkers; and
- ii. what will be the cost of same?

Question No. 57 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Given the Government's stated policy on removing the fuel subsidy, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. what is the dollar value of the subsidy applied to each of the three types of fuel obtained at the pump; and
- ii. when will the fuel subsidies be completely removed?

Question No. 58 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

What is the policy of the University of the West Indies on incomplete course curriculum arising from class disruptions caused by natural disasters?

10. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
11. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES
12. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS
13. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Magistrates Protection Act, Chap. 6:03.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (ii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to validate the constitution of licensing committees established under section 5 of the Liquor Licences Act, Chap. 84:10 as well as the grant, transfer and renewal of licences and all other acts and omissions by licensing committees and for related matters.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (iii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation) Act, Chap. 19:04.'
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 27, 2018 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the Board of Petrotrin announced on the August 28, 2018 that the company's refinery will cease its crude oil refining operations;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister on the September 02, 2018 confirmed that the Cabinet had accepted a recommendation of the Petrotrin Board to close its refinery;

AND WHEREAS it is evident that the decision of the Government was without stakeholder consultation and with little or no disclosure to the public;

AND WHEREAS the decision to close the Petrotrin refinery will have direct adverse consequences on thousands of persons as well as on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the failure of the Government to disclose a viable and credible plan to address the needs of those persons/business affected by the closure of the refinery;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate condemn the actions of the Government in closing the Petrotrin refinery.

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Government has acquired the Galleons Passage, a new inter-island Passenger Ferry in a procurement arrangement that did not include the Central Tenders Board;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has advised that the Government was guided in the amount it paid for the vessel by the valuation reports of two independent international firms;

AND WHEREAS it was discovered that one of the two firms that conducted the valuation is owned by the same company from which Government purchased the vessel;

AND WHEREAS in the interest of transparency and accountability in the procurement of the inter-island passenger ferry, there is need for the Government to provide the Parliament with reports including the Dunn and Bradstreet and all Arbitration Reports surrounding the settlement of the Donia Mercedes;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Minister of Finance to table, within fourteen days, copies of the Dunn and Bradstreet Report and all Arbitration Reports related to the settlement involving the previous owners of the Donia Mercedes.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** it is established by Section 71(1) and (12) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, that there shall be an Elections and Boundaries Commission that in the exercise of its functions shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority;

AND WHEREAS the Elections and Boundaries Commission is responsible for holding free and fair elections throughout Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note that the Elections and Boundaries Commission is not subject to any parliamentary scrutiny or accountability in respect of its activities and operations unlike other similar independent bodies such as Service Commissions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to take urgent steps to introduce legislation that would make the Elections and Boundaries Commission accountable to the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago by allowing parliamentary scrutiny of its administration, the manner of the exercise of its powers, methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by the Commission in the exercise of its powers and functions.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iv) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House take note of the escalating levels of job losses in the country since September 2015 and condemn the Government for its failure to present a clear and cogent economic policy to guide Trinidad and Tobago through these challenging economic circumstances.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (v) **WHEREAS** the responsibility of a Government is to ensure public safety and security through the maintenance of law and order;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to address the extraordinary increase in the level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago, in particular murders and other violent crimes, which are negatively affecting national peace and economic development;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the Government's failure to arrest the increasing and unacceptable levels of criminal activity in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, in the shortest possible time a cogent Strategic Crime Prevention Plan to address the unacceptable levels of crime facing the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

- (vi) **WHEREAS** the Education Act, Chap. 39:01, charges the Government with the responsibility to ensure the promotion of the education of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, the establishment of a system of education and educational institutions, and the effective execution of a national education policy;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to fulfil most of these objectives;

AND WHEREAS recent reports have highlighted the failure of the Government to address the persistent issues of school violence, bullying and mental illness;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the poor state of the education sector in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, within the shortest possible time, a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan for the education sector, from early childhood care to tertiary level education.

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

- (vii) **WHEREAS** section 6(2) of the Education Act Chap. 39:01 provides that the Ministry of Education should provide special schools suitable to the requirements of students with physical and learning disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry has not provided students with disabilities, additional learning needs and/or challenging behaviours with the requisite support networks, and equal opportunities needed to achieve their full potential;

AND WHEREAS the lack of adequate funding, policies and specialist staff is reflected in the poor performance of students;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to commit to the allocation of adequate funding, reform of the appropriate legislation and revision of policies designed to ensure that all children with special needs are provided with equal educational opportunities to other students;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education immediately initiate and implement a comprehensive strategy to assist all children with disabilities, additional learning needs and/or challenging behaviours.

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

December 06, 2018

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2018

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 10 to the Attorney General**

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

Over the period September 2015 to September 2018, can the Attorney General advise:

- (i) what is the total amount of damages awarded by the High Court and Court of Appeal against the State in matters involving Police Officers, for claims of assault and battery, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment;
- (ii) against how many of the said officers has the State instituted disciplinary proceedings as a result of the damages awarded; and
- (iii) if no action has been taken, can the Attorney General provide the reason(s)?

(Answer due by 13.11.2018)

***Question No. 49 to the Minister of Public Administration**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to contract employment in Government Ministries/Departments and Statutory Authorities, can the Minister provide the following information:

- a) the names and designations of all persons whose contracts were not renewed during the period September 30, 2015 – September 30, 2017;
- b) the reasons for such non-renewal referred to in (a);
- c) the names and designations of all persons employed/recruited on contract during the period September 30, 2015 – September 30, 2017;
- d) details of the compensation package of each person referred to in (c);
- e) the names and designations of all contract officers who during the period September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2017 were terminated before the original completion date of their contracts; and
- f) the reasons for the termination referred to in (e)?

(Answer due by 30.11.2018)

Question No. 60 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the impending importation of fuel and other petroleum products for use by the local market, can the Minister inform the Senate of the terms of the commercial agreements between Trinidad and Tobago and the vendors of the respective products?

(Answer due by 08.12.2018)

* Question No. 10 was deferred for two weeks on 20.11.2018

* Question No. 49 was deferred for two weeks on 04.12.2018

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

December 06, 2018



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
SEVENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2018 AT 1:30 P.M.

NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that someone impersonating a G4 Security Officer, walked away with a large sum of money from a Caribbean Airlines counter at Piarco International Airport, does this pose negative implications for the international rating of said airport?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that a large sum of money was stolen from a Caribbean Airlines counter at Piarco International Airport, what is being done to immediately address security issues both in and around the airport?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the recent issues at the Point Lisas Desalination Plant which continue to affect the pipe-bourne water supply to a large number of citizens, can the Minister advise when will said water supply be resumed?

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN
December 11, 2018